

## Message Text

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61  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 COME-00

EB-06 LAB-03 SIL-01 /074 W  
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R 241413Z OCT 74  
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 734  
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 163

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)  
SUBJECT: LOYALIST REACTION TO IRISH PRIME MINISTER STATEMENT

1. LOYALIST REACTION TO REPORTED PRIME MINISTER LIAM COSGRAVE STATEMENT IN DAIL OCTOBER 23 WAS SUBJECT LEAD ARTICLE PRO-LOYALIST MORNING NEWS LETTER OCTOBER 24. ARTICLE HEADLINED "FURY OVER WARNING BY EIRE" REPORTED MR. COSGRAVE TO HAVE SAID PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND DEPENDED ON BOTH SECTIONS OF COMMUNITY SHARING POWER IN GOVERNMENT AND NEED FOR ANY POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS TAKE INTO ACCOUNT SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTS OF IRELAND. THE NEWS LETTER CONTINUES THAT PREMIER SAID UNIONISTS CANNOT IMPOSE THEIR WILL IN THIS MATTER AND THAT THEY "ARE A SMALL MINORITY OF THE PEOPLE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, OF WHICH NORTHERN IRELAND AT THIS TIME, FORMS A PART." ARTICLE CONTINUES WITH SUMMARY OF SENTIMENTS LOYALIST LEADERS TO EFFECT NORTHERN IRELAND PEOPLE WOULD DECIDE THEIR OWN POLITICAL FUTURE AS PROMISED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AFTER CONVENTION ELECTIONS AND WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS FROM A FOREIGN STATE. REACTIONS REPORTED FROM UUUC PERSONALITIES JOHN LAIRD, WILLIAM CRAIG AND IAN PAISLEY. LAIRD CALLED FOR PRIME MINISTER WILSON TO CONFIRM OR DENY WHETHER HE GAVE MR. COSGRAVE ASSURANCES OF HIS COMMITMENT TO POWER-SHARING AND IRISH UNCLASSIFIED

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DIMENSION. MP WILLIAM CRAIG OFFERED GIVE MR. WILSON AND

MR. COSGRAVE "CATEGORIC ASSURANCE THAT THERE WILL BE NO POWER-SHARING IN GOVERNMENT WITH REPUBLICANS IN NORTHERN IRELAND" AND THAT "THERE WILL BE NO RELATIONSHIP WITH IRISH REPUBLIC OTHER THAN NEIGHBORLY." REV. IAN PAISLEY CALLED FOR TOTAL BOYCOTT OF EIRE GOODS AND MONEY. TRADE UNIONIST AND ASPIRING POLITICIAN GLENN BARR IS QUOTED AS WARNING THAT IF MR. COSGRAVE "PLANS TO STICK HIS NOSE IN NORTHERN IRELAND POLITICS, HE HAD BETTER SHARPEN HIS SWORD AND BE ABLE TO BACK UP HIS WORDS. THE NORTHERN IRELAND PEOPLE WOULD NOT BE CONTENT MERELY TO SEEK ANOTHER CONSTITUTIONAL STOPPAGE TO DEFEND THEIR RIGHTS. THEY WILL USE WHATEVER WEAPON THAT THEY HAVE AT THEIR DISPOSAL." BARR EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS FOR DIALOGUE WITH MINORITY REPRESENTATIVES IN FORTHCOMING CONVENTION ELECTIONS. HE ADDED "WE FULLY REALISE THAT BOTH SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY HAVE GOT TO COME TOGETHER TO RUN NORTHERN IRELAND. BUT WE WILL NOT HAVE IT RUN BY PEOPLE LIKE COSGRAVE."

2. ASSOCIATED ITEM NEWS LETTER ANNOUNCED PRIME MINISTER WILSON AND COSGRAVE ARE TO MEET LONDON NOVEMBER 1. THIS ARTICLE REPORTED MORE OF COSGRAVE STATEMENT INCLUDING ATTACK ON PROVISIONAL IRA VIOLENCE AND BRUTALITY AND REITERATION OF COMMITMENT TO PRINCIPLE OF UNITY ONLY WITH CONSENT NORTHERN IRELAND MAJORITY.

3. TOUGH FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL NEWS LETTER CALLED FOR GRASP TWO FACTS "THAT THE IRA IS GOING TO BE DEFEATED. THERE IS NOT GOING TO BE A UNITED IRELAND." EDITORIAL ASCRIBED HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY TO LONDON AND DUBLIN FOR DANGEROUS DELUSIONS THAT ENCOURAGED THE IRA.

4. CONSENSUS MODERATE PROTESTANT REACTION IS THAT COSGRAVE STATEMENT "UNHELPFUL." SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY HAVE NOT RPT NOT YET COMMENTED.

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** LOYALIST REACTION TO IRISH PRIME MINISTER STATEMENT  
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**To:** STATE  
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